GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3158
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Budget for Agriculture
Sawant Shri Arvind Ganpat;Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna;Tumane Shri Krupal Balaji;Verma Smt. Rekha Arun

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to prepare independent budget for agriculture and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to give impetus to growth rate of agriculture sector and accord status of industry to agriculture to attract investment in this sector and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of funds invested/ released for this purpose during the said period along with the achievements made thereunder?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): No, Madam.

(b) & (c): Agriculture, including agricultural indebtedness, being a State subject, the State Governments take appropriate measures for development of agriculture in the State. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States through appropriate policy measures and budgetary support.

The agriculture sector is estimated to grow at a rate of 4.1 percent in 2016-17. Government interventions for increasing growth rate of agriculture and increase investments are as follows:-

(i) In a move that aims to address the perennial irrigation water crisis affecting rural India, a Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) was instituted in NABARD as part of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The fund with an initial corpus of about Rs.20,000 crore is to be augmented by 100% during 2017-18, taking the corpus size to Rs.40,000 crore.
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(ii) The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.

(iii) The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh. As announced in the Budget, the target for agriculture credit for the year 2017-18 has been fixed at Rs.10.00 lakh crore.

(iv) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY scheme is being implemented from Kharif 2016 season. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks, in specified instances. Coverage of PMFBY will be increased from 30% of cropped area in 2016-17 to 40% in 2017-18 and 50% in 2018-19 for which a budgetary provision of Rs.9000 crore has been made for 2017-18.

(v) National Agriculture Market scheme (e-NAM envisages initiation of e-marketing platform at national level and will support creation of infrastructure to enable e-marketing in 585 regulated markets across the country.

(vi) Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and thus save money of farmers.

(vii) Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate urea use, enhance its availability to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured urea is now neem coated.

(viii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realize premium prices.

In addition, the Government is implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM); Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH); National Mission on Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP); National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA); National Mission on Agricultural Extension & Technology (NMAET) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

The constant rise in budget outlay for 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, as given below, shows the commitment of Government of India to give impetus to growth of agriculture sector:

Financial Year Outlay (Rs. in crore)
2015-16 Rs.16,646.35 (BE) Plan
2016-17 Rs.20,400.00 (BE) Plan
2017-18 Rs.41,855.00 (BE)
(Including non-schemes)

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